## FEW CHANGES IN PITCHING STYLES

Modern Twirling a Modification of That of the Past Under New Names.

MANY FAMOUS FEATS

Baseball History Has Been Made by Players Using Freak Deliveries.

## By CHARLES F. MATHISON.

A staff of good pitchers is the greater esset a ball club can possess. "Give me the pitchers and I'll finish up with the the pitchers and I'll shish up with the best of them." is what a manager has sold his club owner time after time Many mediocre teams have won championships solely through pitchers. The hitless wonder White Sox, world's champions of 1906, won the championship because of the sterling work of Ed Walsh. Doc White, Nice Altrock and Soldier Boy Owens.

The National League champions of recent years practically have been

The National League champions of secent years practically have been pitched into their titles. Rudelph, James and Tyler pitched a mediocre Braveteam to the world's championship in 1914, and the following year Alexander pitched the Phillies into their first National League championship. Great work by the Dodger pitchers in 1916 was the sole reason for Brooklyn winning the pennant that year.

Locking over the present day pitchers, one worders whether they are much different from the twirlers of the past. Unquestionably the modern pitchers know more, but their styles are much the same as those of the old war horses

the same as those of the old war horses of a generation ago. In some cases the present pitchers my have perfected some of these old styles, but even that is

open to argument.

Review the intching stars of the last twenty-five years—since the old rule-compelling them to pitch the ball rather than throwing it was adopted—and you will find that the styles have changed very little.

### Spithall Only Discovery.

Spitball Only Discovery.

Por instance. Radbourne, one of the test pitchers that ever lived, was an overhand ritcher, a style that all managers insist upon to this day and one that youngsters try to develop. Nobody has improved uron his delivery.

The one and only real valuable discovery in pitching during this quarter of a century was the spitball. It is entirely different to previous known methods of making a ball severye out of its direct course so as to fool a batter. The spitball, technically, is not a curve. As most every-body knows it is thrown by letting the finger tips slip from the leather instead of sripping it. The ball, without spinning at all, wabbles up to the clate and then sudden's drops to one side or the other. To the spitball might be added the knuckle ball, the emery ball, the curve. They do not differentiate between the ball and the "shine ball," all of them variations of the spitball and pitched under the same principle.

The perfect style of pitching, according to managers, is the overhand, but, strangely enough, some of our greatest stars have not been overhand, but, strangely enough, some of our greatest stars have not been overhand pitchers. A striking exemple is Grover Cleveland Alexander. He is an exponent of the side-arm delivery and is also the best.

Alexander.

Johnson, Alexander.

Johnson, Rucker.

Joseph Ryown, Ruddorn, Ruddorn, Ruddorn, Ruddorn, Ruddorn, Ruddorn, Ruddorn, Raymond, Walsh, Reproductive, Tearend.

Walsh, Mars.

From this it will be noticed that the a strai ht one. That is one thing the nderhand are in a very small minority. I seem to grasp. Unco few of them have been successful less the ball thrown with terrific speed.

that it is difficult to remember more than three. Of these three only one remains—Mays of the Red Sox. During the past season he has been very effective, but the players say this is due to ball that takes a sudden rise does so on

## LEADING EXPONENTS, MODERN AND OLD TIMERS, OF VARIOUS STYLES OF BIG LEAGUE PITCHING



A striking example is Grover Cleveland Alexander. He is an exponent of the side-arm delivery and is also the beat pitcher in the country to-day.

Matty and Walter sohnson are the greatest exponents of the overhand delivery.

There is still another group known as the underhand nichers, and of these the star was Joe McGinnity.

It is very difficult to draw from an old timer the admission that there is any improvement in baseball at all, but a few of them, like Dasher Troy, George Gore, Tommy York and Joe Hornung, say that the frequent use of the "slow ball" has been of advantage. The "closter" was seldom used in the old days, and in that the mo'ern pitchers have shown improvement.

Cheahro the Leader.

With the coming of the sn'iball another distinct school was established, the premier being Jack Chesbro, who still holds the record for the greatest number of wins in one year. Chesbro was the real ploneer of the spitball, and his wonaderful success is probably due to the fact that the peculiar break on the ball was then strange and new. was then strange and new.

Probably the best way to study these pitchers and observe the relative effectiveness of the different styles is to arbitrary and the styles are styles are styles as the styles are styles are styles as the styles are styles as Brooklyn of the 1916 World's Series at Brooklyn of the 1916 World's Series at Brooklyn are styles as the styles are styles are styles as the st he struck out three of the six Boston batters that faced him, and each of them whifted out on that tantalizing slow one. That finished Nap's glorious career.

Speed has been and always will be the main asset of a pitcher. With it he doesn't need a great assettment of curves doesn't need a great assortment of curves nor a spitball. He can even get along without a slow one.

## Speed With a Hop.

McGinnity was a terror with his underhand ball, known to the players as "Ood Sal." In a pinch it was deadly effective and kept Joe in the running long after his strength had begun to abb.

Very few managers will even consider an underhand pitcher when one is recommended by the scouts. They do not last long, and cannot possibly have that variety to their work needed for a long campaigm.

The finished style is the overhand, a proof of which is that there are more great overhand pitchers than any other kind. The overhander has a distinct advantage in that he is able to deliver the ball with terrific speed and go making it almost impossible to hit it to the sale are mossible to hit it the sale and pulls away all the time, making it almost impossible to hit it

## Modern Pitching to Great Extent

Modern Pitching to Great Extent

Modifications of Past Deliveres

"Corcoran never was properly sup-

curve." although it was nothing more than a speedy and sharp drop.

Larry Corcoran, one of Anson's mainstays in the box, was perhaps the first ambidextrous hurier in the history of generally feared and was effective for many verse.

GROVER

CLEVELAND ALEXANDER 3

LEADING

PRESENT

EXPONENT

OF SIDE -ARM

the same. Corcoran was a stocky little many years. the same. Corcoran was a stocky little
Irishman, with good control, sharp
curves and an excellent head If the
batsmen made free with his right hand
delivery. Larry would shift and send the
ball with his left. Corcoran's father
never took any interest in baseball and
knew little of the game, but one day
was induced to attend when his boy
was a pitcher. The Colts fielded raggedly
and runs piled up. A disgusted fan who
last rear Corcoran pers comprised:

White a Speciacled Pitcher. The antitheris of Whitney was roly

## Lee Meadows of the St. Louis Car-dinals has occasioned much astonishment

ported."
"You're a liar," said Larry's father:
"that by a has bin supported by me iver since the day he was born."

Grasshopper Jim Whitney.

dinals has occasioned much about.

by wearing spectacies on the mound.

Away back in 1878 Will White, brother of Deacon White, wore glasses in the box when he was with Cincinnati. It is not on record that Will was ever hurt. White was not much of a pitcher.

With a large squad out for the base-hurt. White was not much of a pitcher. object driven with great speed. The golf that there are no others in the league and there is not enough opportunity to bet against that style of pitching to get familiar with it.

Terror to Batamen.

McGinnity was a terror with his undershand hall, known to the players as "O'd Sal." In a pinch it was deadly effective and kept Joe in the running offective and kept Joe in the running long after his strength had begun to ebb.

Very few managers will even consider an underhand pitcher when one is recommended by the scouts. They do not last long, and cannot possibly have that variety to their work needed for a long ampaign.

Dobject driven with great speed. The golf ball that takes a sudden rise does so on the fast takes a sudden rise does so on the fast ball was a straight as a s

thought the same way, and almost tore their arms out experimenting with it.

The principle of the emery ball was to roughen one side of the ball and pitch it with the fingers holding on the smooth surface. The air currents would take up the rough surface and give the emery ball its famous sail. Ford would combine the spitter with the emery ball at times, letting the spit ball slide out of his hand with one side of the ball roughened. PITCHING Restn and Shine Ball.

# The resin ball and the so-called "shine ball." both made famous by Cicotte, were outgrowthe of the emery ball Despite denials Cicotte, until stopped by the umpires, continually us d powdered resin on the ball. One side would be resined and the other side smooth to give the ball the strange sail when the air currents got it.

thought the same way, and almost tore

The "shine ball" consisted of rubbing EBBETS FIELD WILL thereby polishing it or shining it. anointment made the natural side the rough side and was supposed to give the ball its sail. Clotte later admitted this ball was more or less of a psychological delivery. The players who hit against Brooklyn Baseball Club to Naval Station, Pelham Bay Park Naval delivery The players who hit against him believed he was doing something mysterious to the ball, and it did not belp their confidence when they faced

nasty trick, giving a display of poo-

## BASEBALL AT C. C. N. Y.

Joe Deering's Conching. lie will be protected from the sun a with a large squad out for the base- the afternoon, a feature that will be New York, a winning nine is expected,
Five pitchers and a proportionate num-Five pitchers and a proportionate number of other players are on the list.

There will be no charge for spectations of the courts after the courts after the completion of a list.

There will be no charge for spectations for the courts after the completion of a list.

Air Service. Boys' High, and Murray. '21; catchers, baseball game. mon. '21 and Wolf. '21.

Joe Deering will coach the team. A freshman team has been organized

which is trying to arrange games with high school and private school nines. Nat Holman will coach the yearlings.

## Soldiers and Sailors to Meet at Millrose Games.

series of relay events of the present indoor season is carded for the Millrose games, which will be held in Madison Square Garden on January 22. The one mile relay for the army is expected to bring together the pick of the athlets talent of the biggest military training camps in the country. Star teams will Wadsworth at Spartanburg Camp Up ton at Yanbank Camp Dix at Wrights town, Fort Hamitton, Fort Slocum at-

BE USED FOR TENNIS staged for enlisted men in the navy. This event will bring together teams from the Boston Navy Vard, Newport Naval Station, Pelham Bay Park Naval Station and the Mine Sweeping Division at Tompkinsville Among these entries will be found some of the country's greatest quarter milers. greatest quarter milera.

A special court situated between third various camps and naval stations in this ball becomes gunahy when he leaves the relay event and the result of the maten relay will be anxiously awnited. for tournaments and match games. The three mile run will attract many seating capacity will make it one of the stay entries from the Middle Atlantic

largest and most complete in the United States Both the players and the pub-

Lay Out 24 Courts.

The Brooklyn Baseball Club an-

base and the grand stand will be used

GEORGE MIUSE

LEFT HANDER

WHO WITH

PLANK PER-

FECTED THE

CROSS-FIRE BALL

The management contemplates the Newark outfielder, who

## SPECIAL RELAY RACE FOR ARMY AND NAVY

What is expected to be the greatest

him.

The bean ball, made famous recently by Carl Mays and Dutch Leonard of the Pooklyn baseball team is not using known by ball players as "dusting emoff." It is a wildly delivered ball complished to drive him away from the ing dangerously near the batter's head, intended to drive him away from the plate and to ahake his confidence—a very nasty trick, giving a display of poor.

The bean ball, made famous recently woted to tennia during the time the Rock will be devoted to tennia during the time the Rock will be run at the beginning of the programme and the match relay between the Army and Navy will be run at the beginning of the programme and the match relay between the Army and Navy at the end of the programme, so as to give the winning teams in each of the early events plenty of rest. Great enthusiasm to always a thread of the white Sax and the match relay and navy at the end of the programme, so as to give the winning teams in each of the early events plenty of rest. Great enthusiasm to always at the end of the programme and the match relay between the Army and Navy at the end of the programme and the match relay between the Army and Navy at the end of the programme and the match relay between the Army and Navy at the end of the programme, so as to give the winning teams in each of the early events plenty of rest. Great enthusiasm to always at the end of the programme and the match relay for the Army and Navy at the end of the programme and the match relay to the work of the programme and the match relay to the work of the programme and the match relay to the work of the programme and the match relay to the work of the programme and the match relay to the work of the programme and the match relay to the work of the programme and the match relay to the the programme and the match relay to the work of the programme and the match relay to the programme and the matc

Association. These include Giover, the national junior five inthe champion; the pitcher he faced was the same on Kephart, the middle Atlantic junior whose speedy delivery sent him to the borderiand of the Great Divide and he borderiand of the Great Divide and he

## HAAS TO BECOME FLIER.

## NEWPORT, R. L. Jan. 12 -- Brune Hans

Marks. 19, and Nacison. 20 first base.

Projansky, 19 Krinsky. 21 and Shanonn. 19 second base. Roberts. 18:

Bolotovsky and Rosenberg. 19 shortcentre field walf. This clubbouse, which for a berth with the birdmen was sucstop, Freehill. 20; Beck. 19, and Lehrman, 18; third base, Koppel. 21; Beck,
19, and Baldwin, 19; outfield, Lowenthal, 18; Mannheimer, 19; Davidoff,
reclining rooms and other appurtenances; achinist. The airplane service howman, '18; third base, Koppel, '21; Beck, players, will be fitted with a large num- to that branch of the service.

'19, and Baldwin, '19; outfield, Lowen- ber of showers dressing rooms, lockers, 'He entered the naval service as a thal, '18; Mannhelmer, '19; Davidoff, '19; Pelunis, '18; Lebovsky, '19; Solomon, '21, and Woif, '21.

The service howers dressing rooms and other appurtenances tachinist. The airplane service howers dressing rooms, '21, and Woif, '21.

The service howers dressing rooms and other appurtenances tachinist. The airplane service howers dressing rooms, '21, and Woif, '21.

that he leater himself must do clop.

"It a use most essential thins in skating world's record after he had made skry-seven revolutions while doing the "Jackson Haines" spin. I must dispute this claim. In the presence of Erer Meyer, Arthur Held, Frank

that he leater himself must do clop.

"It a use most essential thins in skating world with the presence of the truly expect skaters and the helphis shakes to know a light of success if they had been locking in the confidence in their own ability. By confidence in their own ability. By confidence in the confidence in

## TRIS SPEAKER ONCE TELEPHONE LINEMAN

Discharge on Account of Lack of Work Paved Way for Success as Player.

## HARD MAN TO STRIKE OUT

No major or minor league club ever asked for waivers on Tris Speaks world's greatest outfielder, but a telaphone company did, and it got them the Texan having to separate himself from a job that was paying him 12 a day. What Spoke is getting now nobody but himself and American League and Cleveland club officials know, but the last two years he served in Bustonhe was drawing \$15,000 a year.

In the winter of 1906.07, however. Tris was working at Hillsboro, Hill county, Texas, for a telephone companias a lineman at \$2 a day. He held down this job from October 12, 1908, until February 16, 1907. The man who was No. 1 in the American League batting lists of 1916 was No. 21 on the ruster of the \$118boro Telephone Companiand his services were dispensed with on February 16, 1907, not because his work was not satisfactory but because hushness was slack and some persons had in be lopped off the mayroll. Tris being among the new employees was recased outright.

Down in Hillsboro they still show to visitors some specimens of Triss wiring and floor repair work, and it is said to be like his playing—of a hig grade. Down there too they think that speaker's release by the telaphone company helped to make a great ball rlayer of him, for it was in the succeeding aummer that he performed so brilliantly for Houston, and George Huff scouting for

mer that he performed so brilliantly for Houston, and George Huff scouting for the Red Sox, bought him and anothe outhelder named Whiteman, a Yank

## Tris Got \$50 a Month.

Speaker was probably getting more from the telephone company than he drew when playing ball with Claburne of the North Texas League in 1906, his pay being \$50 a month of the restheute After Speaker became famous Dock Roberts used to flush Trisk contrast or ball players whose salury demands his thought exorbitant with the remark "Why, look what Speaker not when he first started in—\$50 a month."

Tris has promised a couple of scribes he would get them this original contract of his, but as he never has carried out

of his, but as he never has carried out his promise it is presumed that the contract was worn out by Roberts war-ing it in the faces of the ambitous athletes he was trying to sign at bargain Counter rates.
While the Cleveland star is often

was working in Hillsboro as a lineman eleven years ago. The Tristram part of Spoke's name is all right (it is family name, but the E. Te's aided himself when he was young, having many comrades who sported three of cognomens and then becoming in resed with the idea that in order to be a regular fellow one must have three

The discovery as to what the work Steaker was in before he here a 300 hitter in the minors and savanced to fast company as a direct real throws some light on the subject as is how old Tris is On his Hillston can after the words "Previous Experience" come these words: "Several months in Hubbard" "Speaker probably worked there after he left the Fort Worth Polytechnic Institute. He could not have been 22 when he went to the institution and it is likely, even if has gray hair, that he was but of the date he says he was—Arri & him

Fanned 48 Times in Three Years Speaker, as usual first year was the pardest man in the Amerian to strike out. The way he avoids w' ing is uncanny. One man who was a to outguess the great drawing card 28. after having been compelled to take

ley nearly killed Roger with a picket hall in Circinnati on June 17 of the Kephart, the middle and Seigel the cross-country champlon, and Seigel the middle Atlantic senior cross-country maced him for two clean angles, or forthcoming the first time up forthcoming the first time up beading collision with Dar forth's shiner didn't affect his striceout record much as eleven of the Cleveland er's whiffs came before that incident The first man who faund Speaker was Allan Sothron of the Browns of April 28.

Speaker pounded the a during May, Howard Ehmile of the It general claiming Tris as a victim on May 9 and on May 10, and Ray Caldwell of 9 and on May 10, and Ray Caldwell of his control of his control of his control of his four strikeouts against the Texat

Fanned Four Times in June In June Speaker struck out times—twice against Chicago and twife against Washington pitches Je

Shaw and Harry Harry of the Nettonals each breezed Sicke to the loads header of June 18 Claude Preside Williams of the White Sox made him sound